

REMARKS

The Office Action has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-29 have been indicated as being allowed. No claims are amended, cancelled, or added. Thus, claims 1-29 and 31 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Rejection based on Heigl.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,634,671 ("Heigl"). This rejection should be withdrawn because Heigl fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, claim 31 recites that "the tensioning strap is configured so that the tensioning of the tensioning strap is brought about by the protection element unfolding." Heigl does not disclose or suggest this feature. In particular, Heigl teaches a tensioning strap 24 that is tightened by either a tightening device 28 or by the inflation of the gas bag 12. (Column 3, lines 8-20 of Heigl.) The expansion of the gas bag upon deployment lengthens the distance that the tensioning strap 24 must extend, which results in a tightening of the tensioning strap 24. There is no teaching in Heigl of the tensioning strap 24 being tightened by an unfolding of the gas bag. Because Heigl does not teach a tensioning strap configured to tighten upon the unfolding of the protection element, Heigl does not anticipate claim 31. For at least this reason, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Heigl are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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